

JOHN A. OLSZEWSKI, JR.
County Executive



JENNIFER AIOSA
Director of Government Affairs

AMANDA KONTZ CARR
Legislative Officer

WILLIAM J. THORNE
Legislative Associate

BILL NO.: **SB 746**

TITLE: **Winery and Vineyard Economic Development Grant Program –
Modifications**

SPONSOR: **Senator Guzzone**

COMMITTEE: **Finance**

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: **February 27, 2024**

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 746 – Winery and Vineyard Economic Development Grant Program – Modifications. This legislation allows the Maryland Department of Commerce to best distribute funds from the Wine and Vineyard Economic Development Grant Program.

Existing wineries across the State of Maryland can apply to the Wine and Vineyard Economic Development Grant Program to offset some of their expenses for capital projects. Furthermore, the grant program is intended to provide grant funding for individuals seeking to establish a winery in the State. Baltimore County supports initiatives to expand the agritourism industry. The Grant Program bolstered by this legislation will provide needed assistance to this burgeoning industry and each of Baltimore County’s wineries. SB 746 will further enable the partnership between Baltimore County, the State of Maryland, and local farms to build a more viable and sustainable agritourism industry.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 746 from the Senate Finance committee. For more information, please contact Jenn Aiosa, Director of Government Affairs at jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov.